

“Charting the Landscape/Mapping New Paths”: Project Descriptions

1. Project Name: Urie Elementary Library Program
2. Goal: Create life long readers/learners. Bring culture and arts to our small rural school, and enrich the lives of our rural families (town population 1200).
3. Participating institutions/agencies: Urie Elementary School Library and school staff, Uinta County Public Library, Wyoming Arts Council, Scholastic Book Fairs, Fort Bridger Historical Site, parents, PEN Volunteer (Parents Education Network), local artists, Bridger Valley Youth Coalition, Renaissance Learning, the Wise bird Bookery and Leap Frog School House.
4. Your role/expertise in this type project: Media Specialist, Program Coordinator, building technology coordinator, grant writer and teacher.
5. Outcomes / successes to-date: Book Fairs are a huge success netting over \$6,000 in gross sales in a school of just 200 students. There is great community support for this since we do not have any bookstores available. All funds from fairs go to support reading and enrichment activities at the school. Reading scores are 20% above the national average. 97% of our third grade leaves our school reading on or above grade level. Students have experienced Australian culture through Residency programs, Mountain Man era lifestyle at the Fort Bridger Rendezvous, and other arts sponsored by the library. We have hosted two successful preschool reading night to acquaint 3-4 year olds with the school setting and encourage parents to read with their children. The library has achieved Model Library Certification from Renaissance Learning by implementing their Accelerated Reader program effectively. We are currently implementing the Leap Track system in each classroom for individualized instruction during out guided reading time. We assisted

the local public library in hooking up their first Internet connection and incorporated them into our LAN. Since then they have become a part of the state library network and are no longer part of the school network. We do keep in constant touch with the public library and support their programming with library card sign ups, after school presentations, and promoting their summer reading program. The school librarian also participates in events at the public library as a guest storyteller. The public library uses puppets and big books from the school library to enhance the story time at the county library. Urie library also maintains an active website for students, teachers and parents. This site includes resource links, current pictures of activities and events, and links to our quiz database and filtered search engines for children.

6. Lessons learned : Much of the time allocated to outside projects and enrichment activities in the school have been dropped due to time constraints complying with the NCLB regulations. The library program continues to evolve with changes in funding, objectives and curriculum standards. Much of the extra time previously used to write art grants and promote enrichment activities has been reallocated to maintaining and trouble shooting technology in the building. There are over 80 computers and a server in the building to be maintained.
7. If we began anew we would ask these questions at the beginning: Is there enough staffing to develop a program like this? Two fulltime library staff members are needed to implement a program similar to this.
8. Critical success factors: The school has continued to raise reading scores, and develop enthusiasm for reading in its students. There is continual high use of the library and it's materials. The library continues to be the center of activity for the school and supports all new programs incorporated into the curriculum. We have many community organizations using the library facilities as well. There needs to be

adequate staffing to continue the success of the program and support new ideas such as the after school programs under development.

9. Our next steps will be: To support the teachers and their needs in curricular areas and NCLB requirements. To continue to reach out to the arts community and bring enrichment into the school. To work with the local museums on collaboration projects to promote integration of joint projects into the curriculum. To make sure the library is part of the Bridger Valley Youth Coalition in promoting healthy after school activities.
10. What else?